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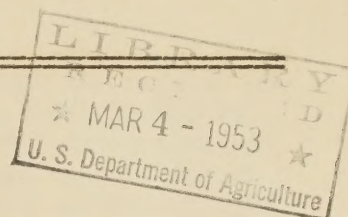
WELL-ESTABLISHED, WELL-LOCATED  
PLANTINGS AFFORD "SURE FIRE"  
QUAIL FOOD.

DEPENDABLE, HARDY QUAIL REFUGE.  
PROLIFIC, PROTECTIVE  
PROVENDER.

Watson's Pecanwood Plantation & Nurseries  
Orangeburg, S.C.

BICOLOR LESPEDEZA

Its Value, Planting and Cultivation



BICOLOR LESPEDEZA is an excellent food-producing plant for Quail introduced from Japan as an ornamental shrub. The bicolor shrub is a woody perennial legume growing to a height of 5 to 10 feet. During the summer it produces a profusion of lavender flowers, to which bees are very attentive.

BICOLOR was grown in this country for a good many years for ornamental purposes. Experimental work by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Alabama Polytechnic Institute Experiment Station, and several State Game Departments, proved it to be an excellent wildlife plant. Bicolor produces a heavy crop of hard seed that remain on the plant for considerable time. The seed shatter slowly and, due to their hardness, remain sound for several months,- thus creating a source of food for winter and early spring months.

Quail seem to prefer it to most other foods, and where it is grown Quail are usually found feeding in or near it during the fall and winter as it provides ample feed and cover for them. It blooms from mid- to late summer. It may shed blooms during a drought and bloom again after the first shower.

BICOLOR is adaptable to most soil types that have fair to good drainage. Its tolerance to shade makes it successful in woodlands and field border plantings.

Early Strain "100" is best adapted in the higher elevations of the North Carolina and Tennessee mountains and generally northwards from the latitude of North Carolina in the United States, and the Later Strain "101" is best adapted in the lower elevations of North Carolina, Tennessee, and generally throughout the other southern and southeastern states. In the semi-arid states, it is recommended that it be planted near natural drainage basins or along stream edges to insure good growth and heavy seed production. Properly planted bicolor plants usually set and mature abundant seed first season, but will grow larger crops thereafter with reasonable care.

P L A N T I N G   I N S T R U C T I O N S

1. Prepare food strips well before planting--they should be about 20 feet wide and 400 feet long and, if area is sloping, they should be placed on contour. Clear all brush out of strip and, if possible, plow deep enough to turn under all remaining vegetation. This will greatly facilitate cultivation during the following year. Immediately before planting apply 0-12-12 fertilizer at the rate of 400-600 pounds per acre, and cut with disk harrow.

2. Plants should be cared for IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL. The best method is to heel them in a moist, shady location. A trench should be dug or plowed deep enough to hold the entire root system of the plants. Then the plants are placed in the trench. They should be covered with soil, leaving only the tops above the soil. If the soil is dry, the bed should be watered after heeling-in. A sandy, moist location is best and it must be well drained. Heeling the plants in groups of 1,000 is a great help when they are removed for planting, as about 1,000 plants are necessary for each plot. Each 20 acres provided with a bicolor plot can support one covey of Quail.





3. The best planting method is to use either a 2-horse turnplow or a single-bottom tractor plow. Open a furrow about two feet from the edge of the strip -- rows about 3 to 3½ feet wide. The furrow should be slightly deeper than the root system of the seedlings. The seedlings are then placed against the straight side of the trench at 18-24 inch intervals. Then throw a furrow back on the plants, covering deep enough so that when the soil settles it will still be several inches above the roots. If a tractor is used, the wheel can be run over the finished row to pack it. Shallow planting will cause the plant to start top-growing too quick and cause heavy loss during the first dry spell. If horse- or tractor-drawn equipment is not available, a tree-planting iron or "crow bar" or forestry tree-planting "DIBBLE" can be used.

4. During the first year, Bicolor should be cultivated enough to keep the weeds down. The best way is to cultivate each time adjacent field is cultivated. In locations hard to get to, proper mulching will eliminate need for cultivation.

5. Cutting plants back after the first growing season will cause them to branch out and give heavier seed production. This should be done just before growth starts in the spring. This operation may be done with heavy stalk cutter, mowing machine, or by hand with a brush hook,

6. Mature strips are maintained in good condition by fertilizing with 0-12-12 and cutting back as in the above operation. This is generally necessary about every third year. All other trees and shrubs should be kept out of the strip.

7. Winter forest fires do not kill established bicolor plants.

8. Bicolor is very palatable to stock so it must be protected from grazing for satisfactory results.

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